

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A laundry appliance comprising:

 a housing including a stamped section recessed relative to a front of the housing and circumferentially surrounding a loading opening to a rotatably mounted drum of the appliance;
 a door disposed on the front of the housing for closing the loading opening, an edge of the door and a surrounding edge of the stamped section forming a gap area therebetween when the door is in a closed position; and
 an illumination device disposed in the stamped section so as to be concealed behind the door when the door is in the closed position, light of the illumination device being reflected at an edge surface of the stamped section and a surface of the door edge so as to provide an illuminating ring visible at the front of the housing in the gap area when the door is in the closed position.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The laundry appliance as recited in claim 5 wherein the illumination device includes:

 a light source disposed in an area of a hinge of the door; and
 an optical waveguide having a light output surface at a periphery thereof.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The laundry appliance as recited in claim 6 wherein the optical waveguide includes a light input surface configured to provide a light-conductive connection with the light source in the area of the hinge of the door.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The laundry appliance as recited in claim 5 wherein the illumination device includes a diffuser and a plurality of LEDs configured to back-light the diffuser, the LEDs being circumferentially spaced at an edge area of the front loading opening

Claim 9 (previously presented): The laundry appliance as recited in claim 5 wherein the illumination device includes an optical waveguide disposed in the stamped section of the housing.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The laundry appliance as recited in claim 5 wherein the illumination device includes:

a light source disposed in an area of a hinge of the door; and
an optical waveguide disposed circumferentially about the loading opening, the optical waveguide having input surfaces in light-conductive connection with the light source and output surfaces circumferentially disposed around the opening.